

WUSD

WASHINGTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Catherine Gallegos
District Superintendent

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March 27, 2000

Board of Trustees
Karen Boothroyd
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Honorable John M. Phillips
Presiding Judge of the Coordinated Trial Courts
Monterey County
P.O. Box 414
Salinas, CA. 93902

San Benancio Middle School
484-1172

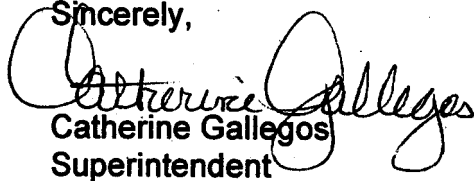
Washington Union School
484-1331

Toro Park School
484-9691

Dear Judge Phillips,
Enclosed is Washington Union School District's response to the
recommendations in the 1999 Grand Jury Final Report pertaining to public
school districts in the County.

Should you need any further information, please call me.

Sincerely,



Catherine Gallegos
Superintendent

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WASHINGTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Response to 1999 Grand Jury Final Report Recommendations

Comparison Study of School Districts

Recommendations

- 1. School Board Members and Superintendents use STAR results to evaluate assignment of personnel.**

The Grand Jury Report cited low SAT-9 scores as part of the background information leading to the recommendation for using STAR results to evaluate assignment of personnel. In the 1998/99 school year, Washington Union School District's SAT-9 scores for students in every grade level far exceeded the county and state averages.

The District makes personnel decisions consistent with state credentialing laws and good personnel practices. Teachers are assigned to classrooms based on their credentials, experience, grade-level preference, and site administrator determination. Site administrators assign teachers to classrooms using the above criteria as well as their knowledge of the teacher's strengths and background knowledge in a particular subject area or grade level.

- 2. Hiring practices ensure that certificated teachers are placed in the classroom. While it is recognized not every excellent teacher is fully certificated, it is counterproductive to have a high percentage not fully certificated.**

All teachers in the Washington Union School District in the 1998/99 school year were fully credentialed.

- 3. School Board Members search their collective conscience to determine if school funds could be better spent on students rather than on individuals performing what is a public service.**

School Board members in the Washington Union School District receive no stipend for serving on the Board. As of August, 1999, School Board Members receive health and welfare benefits for themselves only. Prior to August, 1999, Board Members received health and welfare benefits for themselves and one dependent. The Board took action to reduce the level of benefits at the August, 1999 Board meeting. The current cost to the district is approximately \$12,000 per year.

Board members in every public school district assume a tremendous level of responsibility when they take office. Providing them with single health and welfare coverage is very small compensation for the level of responsibility they voluntarily assume when they take office.

4. **Each school district ensure that programs in place to help prevent school crime and vandalism are monitored. Those found guilty of crimes be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.**

Washington Union School District experiences a very low rate of violence and crime on its campuses. In the 1998/99 school year, the district's three schools had two reportable offenses, as recorded in the California Safe Schools Assessment Report for 1998/99. The school reported a total cost of \$773 due to vandalism in 1998/99.

Students who violate school rules face consequences that align with the school's discipline programs. When appropriate, student offenses are reported to the Monterey County Sheriffs Office.